



Pacific Crest Trail



“to provide for the ever-increasing outdoor recreation needs...”

The Pacific Crest Trail stretches from the Mexican to Canadian borders along the mountainous crest of the Cascades and Sierra Nevada. Thirty-three miles pass through Crater Lake National Park, offering through-hikers magnificent views of the mountains surrounding the lake.

The Pacific Crest Trail

“If you have never gazed down on Crater Lake, reform! Visit it for your own good.” These were the words of J. Hazard in his 1946 book describing the Pacific Crest Trail. At that time, Crater Lake was the finishing point on the Oregon Skyline Trail. Today this 400 mile stretch from Mount Hood to Crater Lake is the oldest section of the Pacific Crest Trail. The idea for a trail on the west coast was first proposed in the 1920s, but it was not until 1972 that the trail was completed and hiked for the first time.

The first National Scenic Trail was the Appalachian Trail, running from Georgia to Maine. Then came the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). Currently there are 11 National Scenic Trails, 6 of them are administered by the National Park Service. Some trails, like the PCT, pass through some of the most beautiful areas in the United States. Other national trails trace routes of historic or regional significance.

Getting Close to the Lake

PCT hikers have always been able to explore vast area of volcanic landscape in Crater Lake National Park. However, until recently, they could get a view of the lake only by leaving the main trail to enter the developed Rim Village area.

In June 1995, an alternate trail opened which brings hikers right up to the rim of Crater Lake. Coming from the south, the trail ascends the Dutton Creek Trail to the rim, then follows the edge of the caldera for six miles of spectacular views. It then parallels the North Entrance Road from its junction with the Rim Drive, out to

Grouse Hill. There the alternate trail rejoins the PCT.

Stock are not permitted on the alternate trail along the caldera rim. Access to the rim for stock remains up the Lightning Springs Trail to the hitching post ¼ mile from Rim Drive. You must bring sufficient feed for your animals as grazing is prohibited within the park.

No camping is permitted on the alternate trail along the caldera rim.

Regulations

The PCT passes through seven National Parks, including Crater Lake. Each has its own rules governing backcountry users. Hikers should contact each park for details about local backcountry regulations.

Most hikers who wish to stay overnight in Crater Lake National Park must get a backcountry permit. Permits may be obtained at the Rim Visitor Center in Rim Village, or at the Steel Information Center by Park Headquarters. PCT through-hikers alternatively, may sign the trail register as they enter the park. Through-hikers

who have signed the trail register do not need to obtain a backcountry permit.

No pets are permitted in the backcountry of Crater Lake National Park, including along the PCT. Pets are allowed on many other parts of the PCT except those crossing any national park and five of the California state parks.

To reduce impact on the park's natural resources, camp at one of the park's designated camp sites: Grouse Hill, Red Cone, Bybee Creek, Lightning Springs or Dutton Creek.

Services and Supplies

Water is scarce in Crater Lake's backcountry. In a typical year, many sources are dry by late July or early August. Hikers should carry at least one gallon of water per person. Possible water sources include Red Cone Springs, Lightning Springs and major branches of Dutton, Trapper, Bybee, North Copeland and South Copeland Creeks.

Those in need of showers or supplies can visit the developed campground and camper store at Mazama Village in the southern part of the park. It can be reached from the PCT by taking the Annie Springs cutoff trail just south of the Dutton Creek Trail.

Mail can be sent to the Mazama Camper Store by the Mazama Campground or to the Crater Lake Post Office by Park Headquarters. The Mazama Camper Store is open 7 days a week, 7am-9pm. There are no trails connecting Park Headquarters with Mazama Campground or Rim Village. At the post office, mail will be kept for

only 30 days. If you cannot arrive in time, let the post office know by calling 541-594-3115. The post office is open Monday-Saturday 9-12 and 1-3. Do not mail perishables. Liquid stove fuel may not be sent through the U.S. Mail. Packages may not exceed 108 inches in length and girth or weigh more than 70 pounds each. All boxes must have a return address.

Send mail or supplies to :
Your Name, PCT Hiker
c/o Mazama Camper Store
(UPS) 700 Mazama Village Dr
Crater Lake, OR 97604
Expected arrival date

Your Name, PCT Hiker
General Delivery
Crater Lake National Park
Crater Lake, OR 97604
Expected arrival date

Day-hiking the PCT

Short sections of the PCT may be completed within the park as day hikes. None are loop trails, so hikers must backtrack to their vehicles.

A long day hike is possible, but to do this, hikers

need to have two vehicles. The PCT crosses Highway 62 south and west of the Annie Springs Entrance. It crosses the North Entrance Road by its junction with the Rim Drive. The total day hike covers 18 miles.

Distances between points in the park:	
Highway 62 to Dutton Creek Trail Junction	2.1 miles
Dutton Creek Junction to Lightning Springs Junction	4.2 miles
Lightning Springs Junction to Boundary Springs Junction	1.6 miles
Boundary Springs Junction to North Entrance Road	3.2 miles
Average hike time, Hwy 62 to North Entrance Road	7.5 hours

For More Information

To obtain information about the entire Pacific Crest Trail, write to the Pacific Crest Trail Association at:
Pacific Crest Trail Association
1331 Garden Highway
Sacramento, CA 95833-1865

Or you can visit their website at:
www.pcta.org